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(818) 840-9556

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Forest Beanum
forest.beanum@cerrell.com

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CHRISTINE DEVINE: Many people who live in other states – oh, maybe those back East – think that living in Southern California is paradise. You know, we have our beautiful weather, Hollywood, the beaches.

JOHN BEARD: But a new report says it all comes with a price. Tony Valdez is live in Downtown Los Angeles with more. Tony?

TONY VALDEZ: And I suppose, John, we could say it comes with a grade-point average. The Southern California Association of Government's annual report card lists or evaluates seven quality-of-life issues. And like with any report card, A stands for failure and – F stands for failure – you can see how I did in school – F stands for failure and A is for excellence.

HASAN IKHRATA (SCAG): We have no As. And let me just tell you that this report should be a wake-up call for our elected officials.

VALDEZ: Southern California's highest grades were Bs for employment and safety. Air quality and income levels got Cs. Housing and education earned Ds. And transportation squeaked by with a D-minus.

IKHRATA: We need to do something now and quickly. And if we don't, our kids – and I have one who's five-years-old – is going to pay the price, and that's not good.

VALDEZ: With six-million new residents predicted over the next 20 years and grades for critical things like air quality and transportation getting worse, everyone has a stake in improving our lives.

IKHRATA: It's the man on the street who needs to understand there is alternatives to driving. It's – it's the government. It's the business. We all have to do something.

VALDEZ: At the Music Center tonight, Los Angeles got better marks than it apparently deserves.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I would have to really for me say A. I love it here. I don't want to live any place else.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Oh, it's an A+. A+, absolutely.

2nd UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I would give it a B+.

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VALDEZ: Why?

2nd UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Why? There's a lot of things to do in Los Angeles. You just gotta know where they're at.

VALDEZ: I thought, what if SCAG's director of planning had come home with this kind of a report card when he was in school.

IKHRATA: My father would be very upset about the letter. He'd be very upset and will definitely do something about it.

VALDEZ: And to put everything in perspective, Los Angeles or Southern California did not get any Fs. But the grade-point average is about 1.75, which isn't going to get you into anything except trouble.

There are some disturbing trends. Less than half of the kids who graduate from high school go on to college. Air quality, which had been getting good for the past couple of years – getting better for the past – I didn't do well in English either – which has been getting better for the past couple of years has suddenly begun to decline again.

And maybe the most interesting or provocative thought of all is that fewer and fewer people are using carpool lanes.

Reporting live from Downtown Los Angeles – and that's City Hall in the background – Tony Valdez, Fox 11 News.

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